

Gator By the Bay Brings Musicians Together in Exciting Pairings

Now in its 15th year, Gator By the Bay, May 5-8, 2016, has become a wildly popular San Diego festival tradition known for presenting an eclectic mix of musical styles and a funfilled atmosphere. Wander among the festival's seven stages and you can listen to everything from authentic Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco music to Chicago and West Coast Blues, from Latin to Rockabilly and Swing. In recent years, Gator By the Bay has also earned a stand-out reputation for bringing together stellar combinations of musicians in innovative mash-up performances, presenting musical groupings you won't hear anywhere else.

This year is no exception. On Saturday, May 7, San Diego's own multiple gold guitarist Johnny Vernazza will share the Mardi Gras Stage with blues greats Roy Rogers and John Németh. Often lauded as the "Master of the Slide Guitar", Roy Rogers' distinctive style is instantly recognizable. He's shared duets with such greats as John Lee Hooker and Allen Toussaint, and teamed up with the likes of Norton Buffalo and Ray Manzarek. Harmonica virtuoso, vocalist and songwriter John Németh has multiple Blues Music Awards nominations to his name, and his album, 'Memphis Grease', won Best Soul Blues Album at the 2015 Blues Music Awards. He has been nominated for the Blues Music Awards 2016 B.B. King Entertainer of the Year Award, to be given out on May 5.

Other notable combined artists' performances include Sugaray Rayford, Alabama Mike & the Drop Ins with harmonica master Rick Estrin and harmonica and guitar whiz-kid Jon Atkinson on Friday evening, May 6, and Jon Atkinson with Rick Estrin and Fabulous Thunderbird alumna Kim Wilson on Saturday, May 7. Also on that Saturday, you can catch the R&B, jazz and gospel stylings of the SD Soul Collective, a blend of musicians and

vocalists whose strong, sultry vocals combine with tight harmonies to take listeners "down home". On Sunday morning, May 8, the future of the local music scene will be joyfully demonstrated through the collaboration of the teenage participants performing as Minors in a Major Key.

Many other blues greats, such as Curtis Salgado and Kid Ramos, along with Louisiana headliners C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band, Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys, Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble, and Bonsoir Catin are among the 90+musical performances scheduled over the four day festival at Spanish Landing Park, across from San Diego International Airport. For all the info, go to www.GatorBytheBay.com.--By Wendy Lemlin









Performing at Tio Leo's on April 19th

Dave Keefer Band members Karl Dring, Rex Havoc, and Dave Talbott all have decades professional blues experience behind them. From festivals to touring to openings for national acts, they've made blues music one of their avocations. All the players in the band have been called upon to play with a variety of performers and genres and have done so successfully. Blues, however, has always been the anchor. After working with various successful groups in Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego, they joined forces with Dave Keefer to put together original blues material and they continue to work together to showcase their songwriting and musicianship.

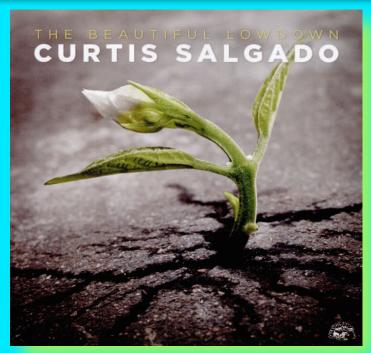
Dave Talbott (bass), Rex (drums), and Dave Keefer all augment their playing with strong vocals and Karl adds back up and lead vocals on occasion too. Karl is as adept on rhythm,

slide, and lead guitar as he is with blues harp which was his first instrument and one which has had him performing at the San Diego Spring Harp Fest several times in its 17 year history.

Dave Keefer is a singer/songwriter and guitarist. He has toured the Southeast extensively and enjoyed success as a studio musician in Nashville. His music has been featured on both the Fox and WB Television Networks.

Since relocating to San Diego he has played the "George" role in a popular Beatles tribute band called Help! and plays regularly with Pat Ellis and the Bluefrog band. He is currently writing material for a blue based CD.





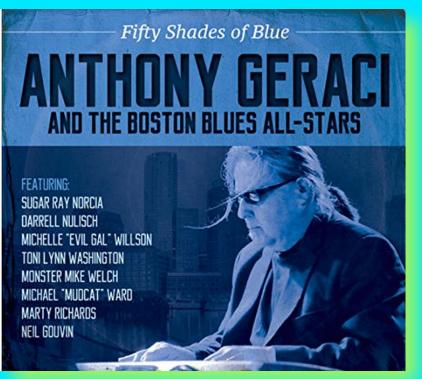
Curtis Salgado
The Beautiful Lowdown
alligator.com

Curtis Salgado is not one to be pigeon-holed into any singular musical genre as his past CD releases 'Soul Shot' and this latest release clearly prove. 'The Beautiful Lowdown' delves into wherever Curtis Salgado's passion leads him whether it be rhythm and blues, soul, swing or down home blues.

After more than 40 years performing with his own bands, being the front man for the Robert Cray Band and a member of Roomful of Blues and guesting with the likes of Santana and Steve Miller, Curtis has the backlog of experience to expertly handle any genre that touches him. Despite a long history of health issues dealing with cancer, hep C, gallstones and more, Curtis fought the good fight and has come back stronger for it. 'Hard to Feel the Same About Love', the opening cut on this release is a solid R&B cut with a driving rhythm and deep horn work; a tune that would have been a radio hit when Motown ruled the roost. A soulful ballad, 'Healing Love' unleashes the loneliness that pervaded until he met the one who provided that healing love.

'I Know a Good Thing' brings an acoustic blues slide to a mix that creates the 'old sitting on the front porch jam' vibe. 'Is There Something I Should Know' is a heartfelt bluesy duet ballad, and 'Lowdown Dirty Shame' brings strong support from backup vocalists. 'Walk a Mile in My Blues' says it all for Curtis Salgado and probably for anyone reading this or listening to this CD.

Going back to my initial opening sentence, you will find an excellently produced potpourri of blues, soul, and R&B on Curtis Salgado's new 'The Beautiful Lowdown'. I'm already looking forward to his next release. -Steve Douglas



Fifty Shades of Blue Anthony Geraci

Delta Groove Music

Within the first ten seconds of Track 1, "Everything I Do Is Wrong," with its soulful lyrics borne aloft by the distinctive vocals of Darrell Nulisch and the sweet, but commanding guitar tones of Monster Mike Welch, it is apparent that this album is an excellent collaboration of talent and expertise.

Pianist and composer Anthony

Geraci has a long résumé of blues connections in a career that has spanned from his early days in the house band at the original House of Blues in Cambridge, Massachusetts to this current project, The Boston Blues All-Stars. Along the way, he has played with Muddy Waters, BB King, Little Milton, Big Joe Turner, Walter Horton, Big Mama Thornton, and countless other masters of the blues and was a founding member of both the Bluetones, with Sugar Ray Norcia, and Ronnie Earl's Broadcasters.

On this CD, he is joined by his Bluetones colleagues, bassist Michael "Mudcat" Ward and drummer Neil Gouvin. The drumming on most tracks is provided by another Bluetones participant, Marty Richards (known for his work with numerous rock, jazz and blues luminaries). Throughout the album, fellow Bluetones member, Monster Mike Welch demonstrates his mastery of various guitar styles that brought him to be nominated for the 2016 Blues Music Award for Instrumentalist-Guitar, standing tall in that BMA category along with Anson Funderburgh, Kid Andersen, Ronnie Earl and Sonny Landreth.

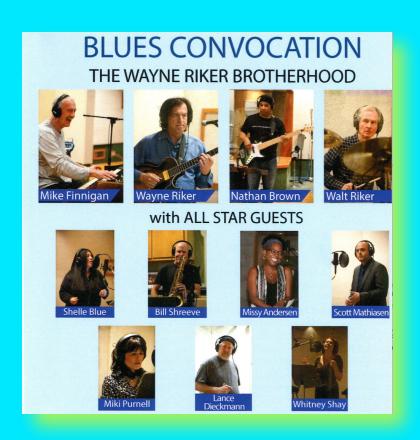
Darrell Nulisch, well-known for his long affiliation with Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets, as well as his work with James Cotton and Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, provides the harmonica and most of the vocals on this CD. Alternate vocalists Michelle "Evil Gal" Willson and Toni Lynn Washington, both powerful singers, bring in some additional shades of blues.

The songs, varying from jump to shuffle to slow traditional blues, and even a country music number, were all written by Geraci. The variety in styles yields plenty of tasty piano, harp and guitar solos that feature the individual talents of the well-seasoned musicians.

Fifty Shades of Blue has brought Mr. Geraci and his project into the BAM spotlight this year, with four nominations: Best Album, Best Traditional Album, Pinetop Perkins Piano Player, and Best Song for the album's title song.

The CD wraps up with "Blues for David Maxwell," a beautiful instrumental tribute that echoes Maxwell's own breathtaking style, fading out into an ethereal farewell with jazz-flavored piano and Native American flute at the end.

This excellent album deserves its BMA nominations and is well-worth adding to your shopping cart.-DM



Blues Convocation The Wayne Riker Brotherhood with All Star Guests

CD Baby and amazon.com

It's a pleasure to be able to listen to a San Diego based group of musicians who put their talents together for a excellently produced, eclectic mix of cuts. Led by Wayne Riker's group consisting of Mike Fininigan on keys, Wayne Wayne on guitar, Nathan Brown on bass and Walt Riker on the skins, Missy Anderson, Whitney Shay, Shelle Blue, Bill Shreeve, Scott Mathiasen, Miki Purnell and Lance Dieckman all have contributed their own skills and styles to this one very fine CD release.

Covering a variety of tunes such as Bill Bronzy's 'Key to the Highway', Jimmy Reed's 'Bright Lights, Big City', Freddy King's 'The Stumble', John Mayall and Mick Taylor's 'Snowy Wood' often signature tunes with their own stylistic arrangements and voicing

styles, you are in for a very real treat with this release. You'll have your favorites which do not necessarily need to be mine, but for me Shelle Blue's rendition of 'Bright Lights, Big City' is an absolute vocal standout subtly supported by Wayne Riker's tasteful slide and the harp interludes of Lance Dieckman that allow the song to breath.

Walt Riker's drum groove stays solid during another of my favorites, 'Caldonia'; it swings just as it should, Bill Shreeve's alto sax takes a tasteful turn and the guitar work is clean and unencumbered by unnecessary fx pedals. You'll find the same clean guitar work on the opening number, Freddie King's 'The Stumble' where fx distortion is kept to a minimum. Mike Finnigan takes the lead vocal duties on 'Key to the Highway' with Lance Dieckman providing harp support as both Missy Anderson and Whitney Shay each take their beautifully sung vocal turns as well.

Not to be over looked, the rhythm section of Walt Riker on drums and Nathan Brown both support each song on this release without ever overplaying. They keep the foundation solid and the house built on it is just as strong.

No hyperbole here, a damn fine CD release...get it on Amazon or CD Baby..you won't be sorry. —Steve Douglas

UPCOMING SHOWS

4/2: Vaud & the Villains at the Music Box

4/8: Chris Smither at Sweetwater HS in National City (AMSD

Concerts)

4/14: Steve Miller Band at Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay

4/15: Jimmy Thackery at Ramona Mainstage

4/17: Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers at the Coach House

4/24: Six String Society at

the Belly Up Tavern

4/30 & 5/1: Adams Ave.

Unplugged

5/5-5/8: Gator by the Bay







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